



Duxbury Rural & Historical Society

The name sounds formidable: Sarah Wingate Taylor; but the person behind it was very human, very sensitive, a teacher, a poet, equally at home as a professor of English at a small college in California, or as one of the Watson family, proprietors of Clark's Island from 1690, here in Duxbury Bay. She delighted to teach, which is to share, the Pilgrim heritage. For this while she was living she invited promising young writers and artists to visit at "Cedarfield," the second oldest house on Clark's Island, which she inherited in her mother's direct line of the Watson family.

When Sarah Wingate Taylor died, she left not only "Cedarfield" but also the land that encompasses Election Rock, high on the island's ridge, where the Pilgrim band in the shallop from the "Mayflower" had held the first religious service ashore in the new world, to be kept in trust for all future generations to learn of their Pilgrim heritage. This trust came some years ago to the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society, the precious land, and a few dollars of income annually to be expended to keep alive the memory of the Pilgrims and their principles.

Each year now, the society, to honor her wishes, maintains the house and the land, organizes a picnic and a religious service at Clark's Island, at the very rock where that brave pioneering band worshipped. In addition, 4 or 5 lectures are presented throughout the season on historical subjects in Sarah Wingate Taylor's name.

The second in the 1980 series will continue the distinguished tradition with a talk by Stephen Riley, director emeritus of the Massachusetts Historical Society, entitled simply, "Colonel Shaw's Monument." To the average citizen, this title tells little or nothing; but there is a monument on Boston Common which had a very checkered and in some respects, a highly amusing history, which Riley will expound on Monday, July 7 at 8 pm, in The First Parish Church.

Riley, for many years, guided the fortunes of the Massachusetts Historical Society, perhaps the greatest collection of books, manuscripts, prints,

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maps, paintings that make its library, founded in 1791, the leading research center of American history. A scholar himself, he has contributed many essays and lectures to broaden historical knowledge, many of them, such as "Colonel Shaw's Monument," steeped in wry humor to enliven the fact.

To see and hear Riley is to understand how interesting and at the same time amusing history can be. He has lived surrounded by such famous documents as the Adams Papers, yet he is by no means stuffy or dull, rather tempered by his fascinating work to an appreciation of history as it relates to people. Thus, his tales from history are human and engaging. We are fortunate to welcome

him once more to Duxbury.

Refreshments will be served at the close of the lecture by the hospitality committee under the direction of Mrs. Charles Lane. Everyone is invited.